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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2005

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BRIEFING

Rice, Gul Meet in New York: At a meeting Foreign Minister
Gul in New York yesterday, Secretary Rice signaled that US
action against the PKK presence in Iraq is 'a matter of
timing, not a matter of principle.' Unidentified Turkish
officials told journalists that the US side 'expressed a
greater willingness to talk about things that could be done'
than in the past. A Turkish diplomat said that 'both sides
were pleased' by the Gul-Rice meeting. The sides also
exchanged views about developments in Iraq, including
'sensitive' issues such as Kirkuk and Tal Afar.

Fried: US, Turkey Agree to Increase Pressure on PKK: The
following is a summary of an interview with Daniel Fried,
Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian
Affairs, that was carried today in "Milliyet:"

'We know how concerned the Turkish government and people are
about the PKK issue. The Foreign Minister expressed these
concerns very openly and honestly with Secretary Rice. We
have agreed with the Turks that we need to step up the
pressure on the PKK and its affiliates in Europe. This
doesn't solve the problem, but it is an important step
forward. Our goal is to eliminate the PKK wherever it has a
presence.'

'There are many security threats in Iraq that we are working
to eliminate. We cannot counter all threats at the same
time. This does not mean we don't care -- we do. We think
this is very important. Foreign Minister Gul made the
Turkish position very clear to us. He left no room for
misinterpretation. Secretary Rice understood what he meant.
There are things that we may be able to do, and we are
working on them.'

'We are not in a position to meet the most dramatic
expectations of the Turkish people. We are not in a
position to launch a military operation. You must remember
that Iraq is a sovereign country. The real communication
channels should be between the governments of Turkey and
Iraq. This is a matter of concern not only the US, but for
Iraq as well. But we are determined to step up the pressure

and do whatever we can.'

'Our policy is the elimination of terrorists from Iraq. What the Turkish people should understand from this is that we want the PKK removed completely from Turkey and Iraq. They must be eliminated wherever they are seen.'

'Tripartite cooperation among Turkey, the US, and Iraq has improved, both rhetorically and in terms of joint action. Turkey and the US share common strategic goals in Iraq. We want a peaceful, secure and democratic Iraq that remains as a single state. We want the constitutional arrangements to strengthen Iraq, not to divide it. The US and Turkey totally agree on the kind of Iraq we want to see. Of course, this new Iraq should be an Iraq without the PKK.'

'We understand and sympathize with Turkey's concerns regarding the Turkmen in Kirkuk and Tal Afar. This recent operation in Tal Afar has avoided some of the issues that were raised during operations year. We also know well Turkey's concerns regarding Kirkuk, and we understand them.'

'We have never believed in a division of Iraqi territory. We want the status of Kirkuk to be determined in a way that will serve the interests of all Iraqis.'

Gul Addresses UNGA: On Wednesday, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul delivered a speech at the 60th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Gul offered the condolences of the Turkish people to the American people for the tragic loss of life and large-scale destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. Gul said that a democratic Iraq at peace with its neighbors can only be created by the inclusion of all Iraqi groups in a coalition. He stressed that the existence of different ethnic and religious groups must not be a force for division in Iraq: 'On the contrary, a multicultural society would make Iraq stronger. If a multi-cultural Iraq does not live up to its expectations, this will generate conflict and instability instead of hope and inspiration for the region.' Gul claimed that Turkey, in cooperation with the UN, had been at the forefront of efforts for political and economic rehabilitation in Iraq. 'The Neighbors of Iraq Forum, pioneered by Turkey, has been an effective platform to support the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. Iraq has unfortunately become a training ground for terrorists. We are concerned that terrorism emanating from Iraq may affect other countries, including Turkey. It is our joint duty to prevent such an outcome,' he added. Gul also discussed the Middle East, noting that recent developments in the peace process and in Lebanon had raised hopes. He welcomed the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and called for a similar process for the West Bank. 'Israeli settlement activities in occupied territories must come to an end. The sanctity of the holy sites in Jerusalem must be respected. The roadmap should be revived and fully implemented,' Gul said, stressing that terrorism should not be allowed to derail the peace process this time. 'The reforms in the Palestinian National Authority must move forward, particularly in the area of security. Efforts to improve living conditions of the Palestinians should be intensified,' the Turkish FM said. With regard to Cyprus, Gul denounced attempts to 'move the issue away from the UN.' 'We regard efforts to undermine the role of the UN as a most disturbing paradox,' Gul said. He noted that 'although the Annan Plan did not fully meet expectations, the Turkish Cypriots, for the sake of compromise, approved it with an overwhelming majority. The rejection of the Annan Plan at the referendum held last year was a blow to the international community.' Gul added that it is difficult to believe that the Turkish Cypriots continue to live under restrictions, cut off from the outside world. The FM called for the lifting of all restrictions on northern Cyprus, and suggested the need to enable the free movement of people, goods, and services. On the fight against terrorism, Gul condemned the 'chain of attacks' across the world. 'Combating terrorism should be a global, collective struggle, and the UN should continue to play a prominent role,' he said. Gul emphasized the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and underlined the requirement for countries to maintain full and transparent cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. 'The establishment of WMD-free zones, particularly in the Middle East, would be an important contribution to international peace and security,' Gul said.

Gul Meets with Zebari: Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Gul met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari in New York yesterday. According to diplomatic sources, the draft Iraqi constitution, recent developments in Tal Afar, and the PKK presence in northern Iraq were discussed. Zebari said that Iraq had been doing everything in its power, and pledged to 'do something' more on the PKK issue.

Gul on the PKK, EU Counter-Declaration, Cyprus: On Thursday, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul told journalists

from NTV that Turkey said that nobody should doubt that Turkey has the power to use 'every means necessary' to fight the PKK in northern Iraq. Gul claimed that the failure of the US to take steps against the PKK has caused a 'loss of prestige' for the US in Turkey. 'Turkey hopes to see visible signs that the US is taking steps together with Iraq on this issue,' he emphasized. Regarding the EU counter-declaration issued yesterday in the face of Ankara's refusal to recognize Nicosia, Gul noted that the EU accession document had yet to be approved by the European Parliament. 'The issue is being assessed, and we will then make a statement,' he said. Gul also criticized the Greek Cypriot administration for trying to 'lure' the EU into efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem. Gul said that Turkey opposes efforts to move the issue away from the UN.

EU Counter-Declaration on Turkey: Dailies quote Turkish diplomatic sources as saying that the EU counter-declaration for Turkey 'went too far,' whereas EU Enlargement Commission Olli Rehn described the document as 'reasonable and balanced.' 'The agreement paves the way for the adoption of the negotiating framework, and thus the opening of entry talks with Turkey on October 3,' Rehn said. 'This proposal takes due account of all concerns and provides a solid basis for rigorous and fair negotiations with Turkey. I look forward to its rapid adoption by EU member states,' Rehn noted. Papers claim that the Greek Cypriots had managed to get concessions from the EU by threatening to delay the approval of the counter-declaration. Most commentaries suggest that the EU did not press for the immediate recognition of the Greek Cypriot state, but signaled that Turkey will not be allowed to delay recognition until the final stage of the accession talks. The EU also wants Turkey to remove 'all obstacles' to the free movement of goods, including a ban on Greek Cypriot ships and planes calling at Turkish ports and airports. The EU said the bloc will review progress on the opening of Turkey's ports and airports in 2006.

Iskenderun Port Halts Shipments to Iraq: "Cumhuriyet" reports that Turkey's Customs Undersecretariat has decided to halt the transfer to Iraq of 120 vehicles and 71 crates offloaded from the Egyptian flagged "Egyptian Pride" at Turkey's Mediterranean port of Iskenderun. Iskenderun Maritime Trade Chamber chairman Bulent Kavsak said that the military vehicles brought to the port in Iskenderun could not be classified as 'combat vehicles,' but are intended for logistical and humanitarian support.

McEldowney Announces US Grant for Education of Needy Turkish Students: Turkey's leading national daily, "Hurriyet," carried an op-ed by US Charge d'Affaires, Nancy McEldowney, in which the Charge expressed US support for the education of Turkish children. 'In Turkey, many families in rural areas are unable to send their children to school, and instead have them stay at home or work in the fields,' McEldowney wrote, noting that the US government has contributed 9 million USD to a Turkish project under which cash payments are made to poor families so that they can keep their children in school. 'The project has been particularly successful in helping Turkish girls get to school - and stay there,' McEldowney said. The Charge wrote that this effort will be advanced further with another US grant of 6 million USD. 'This program, called 'From the Field to the School,' will help children throughout the country engaged in seasonal agricultural labor leave the fields and enroll in school,' she wrote. McEldowney concluded that 'by working together on these collaborative programs, Turkey and America stand very tall and very proud. Together we will build a better future for all our children.'

Baydemir Suggests Democratic Debate Will Help Solve Kurdish Problem: Papers report that Diyarbakyr Mayor Osman Baydemir told the European Parliament that violence will return in Turkey if democratic channels for solving the Kurdish issue are blocked. Baydemir was in Brussels to address a conference sponsored by the EU-Turkey Civil Commission to discuss the Kurdish issue. He said that the main reason for Turkey's failure to solve the Kurdish issue thus far is the absence of democratic debate. Responding to questions from the press, Baydemir said that Turkey must create a suitable milieu in which democratic discussions can be held. 'Otherwise, the violence will continue,' Baydemir said, in remarks seen by some commentators as a 'threat' for the reemergence of PKK violence. Some papers charge that Baydemir has been acting as a mouthpiece for the imprisoned PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Ankara Forum Holds Fourth Meeting in Istanbul: The third gathering of the 'Ankara Forum' was held in Istanbul yesterday with the participation of the Palestinian Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture, the Israeli Economic Foundation, and the Turkish Union of Chambers (TOBB). The sides said in a joint press statement that the Ankara Forum is focused on the Palestinian Free Industrial Zone, the

development of small and medium-scale enterprises, construction, and financing. The Forum's fourth meeting will take place in Tel Aviv in November. TOBB Chairman Rifat Hisarciklioğlu said that a budget of 3 billion USD has been allocated to help the development of Palestinian economy, and he called on Turkish entrepreneurs to participate in rebuilding a new Palestine. "Sabah" says that the Palestinian Free Industry Zone, which will be established between Turkey and Palestine through the efforts of TOBB, will help Turkish businessmen to surmount US quota restrictions. The US, Russia, the EU, and the UN have agreed to extend 3 billion USD in financial support to Palestine over the next three years. They also agreed to set up a special industrial zone in Palestinian territory. Goods produced in that special zone and exported to the US will be exempt from quota restrictions. The zone will be run by TOBB. "Sabah" expects businessmen from the region and from Turkey to rush to Palestine to benefit from these exports incentives.

Three PKK Terrorists Killed in Van: Security forces killed three PKK militants in Turkey's eastern city of Van late last night, papers report. Two militants were wounded in the clash, and two others escaped.

EDITORIAL OPINION: German Election/Future of EU/Turkey

"The Final Junction"

Solih Özel wrote in the mass appeal "Sabah" (9/22): "The result of the German election provides some clues for understanding the current situation within the EU. The fact is that the European Union will very likely be in a state of political deadlock, if not political crisis, over the next four years. Due to the choice made by the German people, the German economy will continue to slow down in the period ahead. . The possibility of a solid and strong EU is further clouded when the crisis in Germany is combined with the identity crisis that exists in France. All of this points toward a looser EU along the lines preferred by the United Kingdom. In any case, the EU's need to work toward a joint foreign policy, to improve its competitiveness, and to address its security concerns has not diminished."

"It is not Binding, But."

Sami Kohen opined in the mainstream daily "Milliyet" (9/21): "At first glance, the counter-declaration issued by the EU could be considered as a one-sided statement that does not contain binding obligations for Turkey. Although it is true that, just like Turkey's July 29 declaration, the counter-declaration has no legal value, it does reflect the joint determination of EU countries on the controversial issues of Turkey's recognition of Cyprus and the opening of its ports to the Greek Cypriots. This EU approach is in direct conflict with the view that Turkey is defending. There is no doubt that this declaration also has political importance. The declaration laid out the expectations the EU has of Turkey during the upcoming EU. Even though the language in the declaration was rather soft, it is not hard to guess that some EU countries, especially the Greek Cypriots, will remind Turkey of these expectations at every opportunity. But it wouldn't be right for Turkey to use this declaration as an excuse to walk away from the table on October 3. Now the most important issue is the finalization of the framework document for negotiations , which is binding and thus even more important."

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